

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments:

1. cancelled

2. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 4-6 further comprising a battery and wherein movement of said electronic muscle material causes charging of said battery.

3. cancelled

4. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 4-6 wherein said electronic muscle material, when handled, is also for causing said portable computer system to enter a power-on state.

5. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 4 wherein said processor is also for causing said portable computer system to enter a power-off state in response to said electronic muscle material not being handled for a predetermined time period.

6. (currently amended): A portable computer system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus;

a housing comprising a dielectric elastomer electronic muscle material,

wherein movement of said electronic muscle material causes said processor to sense handling by a user for determination of left-handedness and right-handedness thereof, and wherein, in response to said determination of handedness, said

electronic muscle material generates a plurality of function buttons in the proximity of user fingers; and

a display device comprising a selectable graffiti display area coupled to said bus and for providing a visual display, wherein said processor automatically causes said selectable graffiti display area to be displayed in response to handling of said electronic muscle The portable computer system of Claim 3 wherein, in response to said determination of handedness, said electronic muscle material generates a plurality of function buttons in the proximity of user fingers.

7. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 6 wherein, in response to pressure on certain of said plurality of function buttons, said electronic muscle causes said processor to activate said selectable graffiti display area for enabling user input.

8. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 7 wherein a portion of said plurality of function buttons vibrates to apprise user of relevant message being displayed.

9. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 8 wherein a portion of said plurality of function buttons protrudes from said housing to apprise user of relevant message being displayed.

10. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 1-6 wherein said electronic muscle material vibrates for apprising the user of a message being displayed.

11. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 1-6 wherein said electronic muscle material conforms to the shape of user's hand for improved ergonomics.

12. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 1-6 wherein said electronic muscle material conforms to shape of user's hand to generate contour data which is used by said processor to identify a user for purpose of user authorization.

13. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 1-6 wherein said electronic muscle material vibrates at a frequency as specified by said processor for use as a speaker.

14. (currently amended): The portable computer system of Claim 1-6 wherein said electronic muscle material vibrates at a frequency in response to external sound for use as a microphone.

15. (original): The portable computer system of Claim 14 wherein the location of said vibration moves spatially about the housing for tracking a strongest sound signal.

16. (currently amended): A portable electronic device comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus;

a display module for displaying information and coupled to said bus;

a memory for storing information and coupled to said bus; and
a dielectric elastomer electronic muscle material for responding to pressure
handling by a user and for causing said processor to switch between power-on and
power-off states, and wherein, in response to said handling by a user, said processor
determines handedness of said user and, based on said handedness, generates a
plurality of function buttons in the proximity of user fingers.

17. cancelled

18. (currently amended): A portable electronic device as described in Claim
17-16 wherein said electronic muscle material generates information used by said
processor for detecting the placement of user fingers on said electronic muscle
material.

19. (currently amended): A portable electronic device as described in Claim
18 wherein locations of said plurality of function buttons are defined based on said
placement of said user fingers on said electronic muscle material.

20. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein
application of user pressure on certain portions of said electronic muscle material

causes said processor to activate a selectable graffiti display area of said display module.

21. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein a portion of said electronic muscle material functions as a speaker.

22. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 21 wherein the location of said portion is adjusted by said processor to optimize sound characteristics.

23. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein a portion of said electronic muscle material functions as a microphone.

24. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 23 wherein the location of said portion is adjusted by said processor to optimize detection characteristics.

25. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said electronic muscle material generates information used by said processor for detecting the handedness of a user.

26. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 wherein said electronic muscle material generates information used by said processor for detecting the identity of a user.

27. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 16 further comprising a battery and wherein, in response to movement of said electronic muscle material, said electronic muscle material charges said battery.

28. (original): A portable electronic device as described in Claim 17 wherein said processor is for exiting said power-on mode in response to said electronic muscle material not being handled for a predetermined period.

29. (currently amended) A method of altering the power state of a computer system comprising:

a) In-in response to a user applying pressure to a dielectric elastomer electronic muscle material disposed on said computer system, generating a signal wherein said signal is generated by said dielectric elastomer electronic muscle material; and

b) in response to said signal, powering on said computer system; and

in response to said user moving said dielectric elastomer electronic muscle material, detecting the handedness of said user and generating a plurality of function buttons in the proximity of user fingers.

30. (original): A method as described in Claim 29 further comprising automatically powering down said computer system after the expiration of a predetermined period of non-user-contact of said electronic muscle material.

31. (original): A method as described in Claim 29 wherein said computer system is a personal digital assistant.

32. (currently amended): A method as described in Claim 29 wherein, in response to said signal, step b)powering on said computer system comprises activating a selectable graffiti display area.